

ANDREW S. FULLER, EARLY ECONOMIC ENTOMOLOGIST  
OF NEW JERSEY, 1828 - 1896

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From a biographical viewpoint some of our early writers on insects have been neglected in our entomological literature in favor of their more prolific and outstanding contemporaries. Andrew S. Fuller was one of such persons. Only a brief mention was made of him in *Entomological News* (June, 1896, p. 192) shortly after his death. The only other biographical reference to him in entomological literature occurs in L. O. Howard's "History of Applied Entomology", (Washington, D. C., 1930), in which his portrait is reproduced on plate 5.

Fuller, an editor, horticulturist, amateur entomologist and writer was born at Utica, New York, on August 3, 1828, and brought up in a region devoted to fruit growing. His parents moved to a small farm near Barre, New York, where he attended a country school and helped around the farm. After his parents had moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 1846 he learned carpentering and with his interest in plants he started to devote his activities to the construction of greenhouses, becoming in 1855 the manager of the greenhouses belonging to W. R. Prince of Flushing, Long Island. This position he held for two years. He then moved to Brooklyn, New York, and began to cultivate small fruits, paying particular attention to strawberry improvement. Soon he began to write articles on horticulture for "Life Illustrated," the "New York Tribune" and other papers. The "Tribune" at one time distributed, as circulation premiums, 300,000 of Fuller's strawberry plants. And in 1862 his first book "The Illustrated Strawberry Culturist" appeared. In 1851 he married Jennie Clippens and in 1860 he moved to Ridgewood, New Jersey, and bought a tract of land which he improved and then used for experimental purposes.

His articles continued to appear in the agricultural and horticultural press. During 1866 and 1867 he edited Woodward's "Record of Horticulture." From 1868 until 1894 he was editor of the "Weekly

Sun" and while connected with this paper he was responsible for the distribution of seed white potatoes with subscriptions. In 1871 he became the associate editor of "Moore's Rural New Yorker" later the "Rural New Yorker", becoming part owner and editor-in-chief in 1876. However within a year he severed these connections. He was a member of various organizations and when the New Jersey State Horticultural Society was organized for the second time in 1875 he was one of its founders and its vice-president from Bergen County. At the January, 1876, meeting of this society, in a paper on entomology and its relation to horticulture, he stressed the need for knowledge about injurious insects and said that future progress depended largely upon success in controlling insects.

His books include "The Grape Culturist", 1864; "The Forest Tree Culturist", 1867, which was translated into the German language; "Practical Forestry", 1884; "The Propagation of Plants", 1887; and the "Nut Culturist", 1896.

In addition to the accumulation of a large horticultural library, he collected insects and minerals. He specialized in the Coleoptera, for his collection of which he built a special house. His interests also embraced the study of prehistoric American pottery. At the time of his death from a heart attack on May 4, 1896 he was a staff writer for the "Florists' Exchange," the "American Agriculturist" and the "American Gardener".

From 1868 to 1896 he was the author of some 28 papers on a wide range of economic insects as may be noted by his list of titles in Henshaw's "Bibliography of American Economic Entomology" Parts IV and V, 1895 and 1896. He was also the author of a paper on "Collecting Insects, How to Collect and Transport Them", 5 pages, 22½ cm., with no place or date of publication.

Fuller frequently sent insect specimens or descriptions of insects to the editors of the "American Entomologist" for identification. In the "Answers to Correspondents" in the columns of that magazine and its successors, Fuller's questions and the editors' answers may be

found in Vol. 1, Nos. 3, 4, 10, 11; Vol. 2, Nos. 4, 8, 10. Similar references may be found in the "Practical Entomologist", Vol. 2, No. 9, and in "Insect Life" Vol. 1, page 86. Of Fuller's inquiries nearly all dealt with species injurious to grapes, strawberries, seeds, blackberries, etc. On July 16, 1888, he wrote to C. V. Riley about insects confused with the Hessian fly prior to the Revolution and Riley replied in "Insect Life" that there was no evidence of the existence of that insect in America at that early period. At times, various writers have confused the work of the Angoumois grain moth with that of the Hessian fly. [See Journ. Econ. Ent. Vol. 37, page 838]

When the "American Entomologist" began for a second time in January 1880, after a lapse of ten years, Andrew S. Fuller was assistant editor, and C. V. Riley was editor. However the October, 1880, issue contained only Riley's name as editor, with the announcement that Fuller had retired from his editorial duties. During the summer of 1880, Fuller had been in New Mexico where his interests were likely to call him at any time.

In 1875 Fuller sent specimens of a beetle that he had collected in Montana to Dr. George H. Horn who described it as *Aramigus fulleri* in 1876. Since then it has been known as Fuller's rose beetle. In his "History of Entomology" Essig gives an interesting account of the spread of this beetle over the world. It was originally collected by Crotch on brambles at Fayal on the island of Horta, Azores, in 1866 and described by him in 1867 in the Proceedings of the Zoölogical Society of London. It received little attention until it appeared in many parts of the United States and was described again by Horn.

Andrew S. Fuller died on May 4, 1896. An obituary presumably written by Frederick Allen Eddy and published in a Bangor, Maine, newspaper shortly after his death refers to Fuller's home in Ridgewood, New Jersey, having been transformed from a barren waste to one of the finest places in Bergen County all through the efforts of Mr. Fuller who was an enthusiast in botany and other natural sciences. Upon his Ridgewood home specimens of nearly every nut tree in the world were growing, as well as other trees and plants.

After her husband's death Mrs. Fuller, around December 7, 1897, sold her husband's collection of Coleoptera to Frederick Allen Eddy of Bangor, Maine, and it became a part of, or perhaps the basis of Mr. Eddy's large beetle collection which came to the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy at Harvard College, Cambridge, Massachusetts, after Eddy's death in 1935. Dr. P. J. Darlington, Jr., Curator of Insects, Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, to whom I am indebted for the above and the following information advised me that according to a note left by Eddy the Fuller material was in 112 boxes and included some 4,500 species and 15,000 or 20,000 specimens. Eddy paid \$1,050 for it. The Fuller collection included much rare material identified by good specialists. Some of it was material from Prof. Snow of Kansas. Mr. Eddy combined the Fuller collection with his own and at the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy the Eddy specimens are being incorporated in the general collection of North American beetles. The Fuller specimens were not labelled as such by Eddy and as he received specimens from many other sources it is difficult to identify, exactly, the Fuller beetles. However it is assumed that most of the specimens in the Eddy collection bearing only state abbreviations as localities and not labelled by Eddy, are Fuller's. Such specimens now bearing the label "Frederick Allen Eddy Collection" in the general collection are probably those of Fuller.

#### References

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- Woodward, Carl R. The Development of Agriculture in New Jersey, 1640-1880. 1926, p. 235.
- Obituaries in New York Sun, May 5, 1896; New York Tribune, May 5, 1896; American Agriculturist, May 16, 1896.